Docket Number: 1074-038 Application No. 09/623,954 Amendment A

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 and 12-15 are in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Priority Claim

The specification has been amended to effect the priority claim that was courteously referenced by the Examiner in paragraph I of the Detailed Action.

Patentability of the Claims

Original claims 1-6, 14 and 15 were allowed in the office action.

Claim 7 has been amended to make that claim clearer and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11 in a manner that is consistent with the other changes made to claim 7. Original claim 11 was deemed allowable if combined with its base claim 7. Applicant believes, therefore, that claim 7 as amended here is now in condition for allowance as are its dependent claims 8 - 10 and 12-13, some of which have also been amended here for clarity and consistency with the changes made to claim 7.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant believes that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

> Respectfully submitted, ipsolon llp

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